

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 6, 13, 19, 23, and 27 will be pending in the present application. Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-18, 20-22, 24-26, and 28-32 have been cancelled. No new claims have been added.

The undersigned applicant's representative expresses appreciation for the courtesies by the Examiner during the in-person interview conducted on February 3, 2005. The substance of the interview corresponds to the rejections and responses issued in the Final Office Action dated September 21, 2004 and Amendment dated January 6, 2004, in addition to that given in the Interview Summary.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 6 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has adopted the Examiner's suggestion at this time and rewritten claim 6 to include the limitations of claim 1, from which claim 6 depended. Accordingly, claim 6 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-5 and 7-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,041,780 to Richard et al. ("the '780 patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,794,615 to Estes et al. ("the '615 patent") as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 6,253,765 to Hognelid et al. ("the '765 patent"). Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-18, 20-22, 24-26, and 28-32 have been cancelled rendering the rejection of these claims moot. The remaining rejected claims 13, 19, 23, and 27, have been rewritten to include limitations similar to those in claim 6, which the Examiner considers to represent patentable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 13, 19, 23, and 27 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and applicant respectfully requests that the above rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-32 be withdrawn.

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All objections and rejections have been addressed. It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to the effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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